ABSTRACT.

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A SHORT

ABSTRACT OF THE EVIDENCE

GIVEN BEFORE THE

Great Britain

COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

K

APPOINTED IN APRIL, 1799,

TO ENQUIRE INTO THE

STATE of the COPPER MINES, and COPPER TRADE,

OF THIS KINGDOM.

WITH OBSERVATIONS.

LONDON:

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1800

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE following Abridgement is carefully taken from the Report printed by Order of the Houſe of Commons, in May, 1799; to which the proper References are here made.

In the Obſervations occaſionally given, it is intended to aſſiſt, not to embarraſs the Judgement of the Members of the Legiſlature, by contraſting the Evidence, and ſhewing the Artifices which ſometimes veil the Truth, or ſubſtitute *falſe* for the *true* Cauſes of Events.

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A SHORT

A

SHORT ABSTRACT OF THE EVIDENCE

GIVEN BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON THE COPPER TRADE;

WITH OBSERVATIONS.

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1 — *On the Part of the Birmingham Manufacturers.*

5 — Mr. George Simcox, p. 2.

12 — Said he was deputed to repreſent to his Majeſty's Miniſters, the great diſtreſs of the trade of Birmingham, for many years paſt, from the great *fluctuation* in the price of copper, and its embarraſſments from the late alarming and *unexampled* advance, and to requeſt clauſes to be introduced into the Bill before Parliament, for regulating the export and import of copper.

15 — *Obſervations, &c.*

16 — Fluctuations in the prices of raw materials have exiſted, and muſt always exiſt in proportion to the produce, demand, and conſumption of the article.

18 — That from the fluctuations of price, the Manufacturer had no *data* to form his calculations upon, and that if copper had advanced as it had done the laſt year, he muſt not only ſink the whole of his profit, but a part of his capital, and endanger the ſale of Birmingham goods in foreign markets, as foreign manufacturers would be able to *underſell* them.

20 — Mr. Williams, in his evidence,

29 — (p. 66) proves that copper was much

Ibid. — higher 70 or 80 years ago than it is

30 — at preſent, perhaps more than *treble*, according to the relative value of

31 — money.

32 — They never had or could have any

34 — ſuch *data*; for this, like all other raw materials, has always fluctuated and muſt continue to fluctuate, more or leſs, as already obſerved.

51 — Birmingham was always underſold by foreigners in a variety of articles, but thoſe are unimportant.

RT

MR. GEORGE SIMCOX. p. 3.	*Obſervations, &c.*
The Bill, as it then ſtood, they were afraid, would increaſe their diſtreſs, as it went to empower Government *only* to import copper duty free, and therefore, that the perſons intereſted in the copper trade of this country, would indemnify themſelves by a higher charge on the manufacturers.	This conjecture muſt be founded on the ſuppoſition that copper can be furniſhed abroad *cheaper* than in England. The contrary is the fact, as is clearly aſcertained by Mr. Grenfell, (app. No. 32). D.
From 1771 to 1784, the average ſtandard of ore ſold in Cornwall, was about 71l. per ton; and that he believed a *contract* was entered into at a ſtandard of 70l. per ton, for three years. p. 6.	No ſuch contract ever exiſted.
The conſumption of the town of Birmingham in 1792, he ſtated to be from 1500 to 2000 tons, and that now it was not above 1000.	This ſtatement is much exaggerated, as proved by Mr. Williams, (p. 68) and by Mr. Bolton, in his letter to Mr. W. p. 70.
That the price which manufacturers can afford to pay for copper in this country, muſt depend upon the price to which it is raiſed abroad. In 1790 it was thought to be cheaper abroad; in 1792, it was ſo to his knowledge. p. 9.	Mr. Grenfell clearly proves the reverſe to be the fact, *vide* app. No. 32.
That it was in the power of any purchaſer, who had a ſtrong intereſt in the high price of copper, to *advance it as he pleaſed.*	For this abſurd and unfounded aſſertion, no explanation is even attempted to be given.
The number of hands employed in the manufactures of Birmingham, he ſuppoſed to be from 5000 to 6000, excluſive of thoſe employed in raiſing coals, &c. p. 10.	It is proved that ten times the number are employed in the mines.

MR. GEORGE SIMCOX.

He had never been immediately concerned in *importing* foreign copper, and was not acquainted with the price in foreign markets; and not being an exporter, he knew nothing of the effects of variations in the courſe of exchange, on the export of the manufactures of Birmingham. p. 11.

Obſervations, &c.

Yet in his mode of reaſoning on the ſubject, he aſſumes a complete knowledge both of *exports* and *imports*.

The *home trade* of Birmingham, he conceived to be nearly *ſtationary*.

The general trade of Birmingham is proved to be reduced nearly one half, chiefly owing to the war, which muſt alſo have affected the home trade, from the reduced number of new buildings in which the braſs foundery goods are principally conſumed.

The general market price of cake copper, in 1792, was 100l. per ton at Birmingham, and he believed it could have been purchaſed in *Sweden*, at that time, at about 81l. per ton.

The account produced and authenticated by Mr. Grenfell, (app. 32.) proves that Swediſh cake copper coſt 81l. 3s. 11d. per ton, in 1789, and upon that there was an advance of 37 per cent. in 1792, which raiſed it to 112l. and upwards, a difference of more than 30l. per ton, in the two calculations.

To whoſe teſtimony, on this part of the evidence, credit is to be given, it is ſcarcely neceſſary to ſay.—Mr. Grenfell for many years has been in the habit of importing copper, and of conſtant foreign correſpondence on the ſubject: Mr. Simcox admits he never was an importer, and never had any foreign correſpondents.

MR. GEORGE SIMCOX.

This he believed from a *pro forma* invoice from Hull, ſtating, that a ton of cake copper could then have been ſhipped at Stockholm, for 81l. 2s. 10d. for which price he *expected** to receive copper of ſuch a quality as would anſwer the ſame purpoſe as the Engliſh copper, for which he paid 100l. per ton.

The annual produce of Sweden, he ſtated to be about 1000 tons, 500 of which were uſed for their own manufactures, and the remainder exported.

Obſervations, &c.

Little credit is to be given to a *pro forma* invoice—it is well known they are frequently contrived and fallacious—the ſtatement of this *pro forma* account is, however, completely diſproved by the authentic documents produced by Mr. Grenfell, as above, and it may be ſuſpected that this invoice referred to 1789, and not to 1792, for it was not produced.

* In this expectation he certainly would have been diſappointed, becauſe the Swediſh copper, when imported here, muſt always be refined over again.

Sweden, then, according to this account, had only 500 tons for exportation, and the conſumption of Birmingham, this witneſs ſtated to be from 1500 to 2000 tons annually; the fact, however, is, that Sweden cannot now export 200 tons, and that at a price far higher than in England—he has not ſhewn that copper can be procured in any other foreign country at any *price*.

It is alſo a fact, and worthy of obſervation, that Sweden, in the greateſt proſperity of its copper mines, never produced more than 1200 tons per annum, even when it ſupplied all the copper uſed in England, previous to the diſcovery of our own copper mines. It appears, from authentic documents, that copper could not then

MR. GEORGE SIMCOX.

He could not preciſely ſay, what price the manufacturers could afford to pay for copper in the ore, without injury to the trade of Birmingham, as it muſt depend on the price at which copper is *raiſed* abroad, but admitted that there muſt be a difference made, according to the places of delivery, extent of credit, riſks thereon, and large ſtocks on hand.

Obſervations, &c.

then be imported into England, from Sweden, at leſs than 200l. per ton, ſometimes conſiderably more. In thoſe days, money was more than double its preſent value.

This, even according to Mr. Simcox, is a farther proof that the price of copper abroad ſhould govern that here, as in fact it always did, and muſt continue to do, if the copper trade is left as it ought to be, *free and unſhackled.*

MR. MATTHEW BOLTON.

p. 14.

Stated, that he was afraid many of the Birmingham manufacturers muſt either abandon their trades or more than their profits: that *buttons* and *braſs foundery* conſumed by much the greateſt quantity of copper.—He himſelf had been a very conſiderable button manufacturer for 40 *years*, and abandoned it on account of the *reduced profits*, in favour of two young men bred in his manufactory, who afterwards declined it for the ſame reaſon.

Obſervations, &c.

Unſupported aſſertions prove nothing.—Mr. B does not ſay that *any* Birmingham manufacturer has yet abandoned his trade, or ſacrificed more than his profits. His relinquiſhing the export button trade, is readily accounted for, from the eſtabliſhment of ſimilar manufactories abroad, and the prohibitions.

But is the employment and proſperity of thouſands of our fellow ſubjects, ſupported by capitals of many millions, to be brought into queſtion or hazard, becauſe, after a decreaſe of trade in Birmingham for 7 or 8 years, to be naturally expected from public

Mr. Matthew Bolton.	*Obſervations, &c.*
	public events, an individual is become ſuddenly afraid, that, from the high price of copper, many of the manufacturers muſt abandon their trades or more than their profits.
That the Birmingham manufacturers might go on at a *profit*, if they could get copper from 100l. to 105l. per ton.	The manufacturers of Birmingham can always go on at profit, when copper is not dearer here than in the foreign markets.
He knew no particular reaſon for the low price of copper, from 1785 to 1792, but the Birmingham manufacturers conſumed more copper annually, from 1790 to 1792, than in any former year.	The Birmingham manufacturers are not ſuppoſed to have conſumed more than 1200 tons in either of thoſe years, according to the evidence of thoſe who are well informed on the ſubject.
Admitted it to be *impoſſible* that any *combination* had taken place, or could take place on the part of the miners, for the purpoſe of raiſing the price of copper. p. 15.	This is an admiſſion of a fact, which the preceding witneſs had taken ſo much pains to miſrepreſent.
He admitted that the conſumption of copper in Birmingham had conſiderably increaſed within the laſt year and a half, owing to the copper coinage ſolely.	Our Government muſt have occaſioned this.
That copper goods, particularly buttons, braſs foundery, and other articles, are now made cheaper abroad than at Birmingham, ariſing, partly from the *high price* of copper here, and the price of *labour* being *cheaper* in foreign countries. p. 16.	This country was furniſhed with thoſe articles from the continent long before our copper mines were diſcovered. The manufactures of Birmingham then conſiſted chiefly of iron, ſteel, and tin articles, and other toys. For the introduction of braſs goods, they are indebted to the old Briſtol Company, who were the

MR. MATTHEW BOLTON.

Obſervations, &c.

the firſt braſs makers in this country; at that time the price of copper in England was 140l. per ton, (vide Mr. William's evid. p. 65.

Labour has always been cheaper in foreign countries than in England.

That one or two of the mines in which he had been concerned had yielded conſiderable profit, but, upon the whole, it had been a *loſing* concern to him as a ſimple proprietor—as an enginer, he had derived conſiderable profit.

He could not conceive that a ſet of adventurers would go on from year to year without profit.

He afterwards admits they did.

He knew perſons in Cornwall, who began with very ſmall fortunes, who had now become very opulent.

He might alſo have truly ſtated, that many perſons in Cornwall have *loſt* fortunes by adventuring in the mines. He has admitted that the fortunes accquired in Birmingham, all aroſe from *ſmall beginnings*.

p. 17.

That he was not acquainted with the ſtate of the copper mines in foreign countries, but mentioned the various places from which he conceived copper could be procured.

Mr. B. does not mention at what *price* the copper could be procured, though he muſt know that the article is far dearer abroad than in England; and as long as that is the caſe we muſt not look for foreign copper.

By opening the ports he was of opinion that copper might in time be obtained, but a ſpeedy ſupply he thought could not be obtained. That copper to the extent of 200 tons, might be annually procured from *Ireland*, if the duty on the importation of ore was taken off.

The Engliſh miners do not object to the importation of Iriſh ores duty free.

MR. MATTHEW BOLTON.

He did not know the proportion the manufactured goods exported bore to thoſe uſed for home conſumption, not having been concerned in the home trade, and cannot tell the value of the goods exported.

p. 18.

That he uſed formerly to export great quantities of buttons to Peterſburgh, but does not now export $\frac{1}{20}$th part, owing to the eſtabliſhment of a button manufactory there, and to the prohibitions which are now more rigidly enforced than formerly.

This manufactory was eſtabliſhed by *Engliſhmen*, and ſome Engliſh manufacturers are employed in it.

Admitted the exports to France and Italy, *before the war*, to have been eſtimated at one quarter of the whole of thoſe articles in which copper is uſed.

Stated the *variations* of the prices of zink and copper uſed in the Bath metal buttons. For zink, he had paid from 45l. to 100l. per ton, and for copper, from 70l. to 120l.

p. 19.

That the effect of lowering the price of copper, by opening the

Obſervations, &c.

Though he had been an *exporter* for *forty years!*

This naturally enough accounts for his relinquiſhing the button trade. It can have no reference whatever to the price of copper.

Engliſh artiſts, it is underſtood, are now to be employed at Peterſburgh, by authority of Parliament, in the erection of a mint, the apparatus of which, may probably furniſh them with the means of eſtabliſhing all the manufactures of Birmingham, in that country, to the total excluſion of our own trade.

This proves the decreaſe of the trade complained of, to have been occaſioned by the war; no other reaſon is here attempted to be given.

This alſo proves the great fluctuations in the price of zink, as well as of copper.

This opinion, however juſt, is not eaſily to be reconciled with his avowed

ignorance

ports would certainly depend on the price it *bears abroad.*

Did not know the price of copper on the continent, but that he had bought a very few tons of Swediſh copper at 84l. within the laſt twelve months, not fine copper he believed, but *prize* copper. p. 20.

That in 1787, copper was very low in price, and low in demand, and was a loſing concern to almoſt every mine in Cornwall.

That cake copper was bought in Birmingham, in 1788, at 7½d. per lb.

Admitted that *many mines*, have been carried on for *many* years at a *loſs*, and that great expenſe muſt be incurred in putting a deep mine to work. That North Downs mine required near 60,000l. and that the expenſe will depend upon the time that the mine has been ſtopped, and in proportion to its depth. p. 21.

p. 22.

That if all other circumſtances were equal, we might defy rivalry on the continent, but with labour *cheaper* and the *raw material cheaper*, there is no doubt but in time they might rival us.

ignorance of the price of copper on the continent, which he takes only on the authority of vague correſpondence.

None but Roſette copper has ever been imported here from Sweden, which loſes at leaſt 10 per cent. in refining.

It is not eaſy to reconcile this with the former part of his evidence, where he ſays, great fortunes are made by the mines.

It is poſſible that ſome ſmall quantity might have gone for that price, but it muſt have been of very inferior quality.

In the former part of his evidence, (Report, p. 17.) Mr. B. cannot conceive "that adventurers would go on from year to year, without being encouraged to go on by the profits they receive." Here, however, he is perfectly right.

Here Mr. B. ſeems to aſſume that the *raw material* is *cheaper* on the continent than in England, when he knows, or ought to know, the contrary to be the fact; labour has always been cheaper, as already obſerved.

MR. MATTHEW BOLTON.

That the capitals of the Birmingham manufacturers cannot be called large capitals, being from 100l. to 6 or 7000l. All the great manufacturers he had ever known had began the world with very *ſmall capitals*, but to eſtabliſh large and powerful manufactories, he admitted, required large capitals; and that in Germany a great many cotton mills, which require large capitals, have been eſtabliſhed.

Obſervations, &c.

This is a proof that their profits have been great, or an *intimation*, that, when their capitals are not ſufficient to carry on their trade, they ought to be ſupported at the expenſe of the *mining* intereſts of the country.

That in ſome places in Germany, where manufactories which rival thoſe of Birmingham are eſtabliſhed, *Engliſh goods* are *prohibited*—they are alſo prohibited in the Emperor's dominions, and high duties are impoſed on them in Pruſſia.

Do not thoſe prohibitions, added to the loſs of the trade to France and Italy, by the war, as he has before ſtated, prove the cauſe of the reduced exports of Birmingham. The price of copper has nothing to do with it.

He could not recollect the price of copper in Birmingham, in January, February, and March 1799, having *no memorandum in his pocket*, and did not know the quantity of copper neceſſary for the ſupply of the home market.

His memory is more accurate when ſpeaking of periods more remote; he could ſtate the *old* prices *many years* back without the aſſiſtance of a memorandum!

p. 24.

That he is engaged in a contract for furniſhing the preſent copper coinage; in his agreement there was no contract for his furniſhing the copper, but for the coinage, and the incidental expences attending it, he has *four-pence* per lb.

Other manufacturers of Birmingham would have done it at half this price.

MR. MATTHEW BOLTON.

That one of the *principles* of the coinage was to make a coincidence between our *weights* and our *money*, viz, to make one *penny*—one *ounce*.

That it was at laſt propoſed to him to furniſh copper at 108l. per ton, which propoſition he accepted, and at Chriſtmas laſt it was agreed to advance it to 112l.

The coinage began about the beginning of July 1797, and in all, he ſtated, he had coined, and contracted to coin, 1250 tons of copper. p. 25.

Obſervations, &c.

The abſurdity of this *principle*, as it is called, has ſince been ſeen and abandoned, the halfpence of the laſt new coinage do not weigh near *half an ounce*.

The following ſtatement of the expenſe of this copper coinage to the public, will ſhew the *ſolid* advantages derived by the contractor, notwithſtanding his heavy complaints of the *high price* of copper:

	£.	s.	d.
Allowance per ton for coinage	37	6	8
Other allowances per do.	4		
	41	6	8
All which worth only	20		
Remain	21	6	8

which, on 1250 tons, makes an *extra* profit, for the contractor, of the ſum of 26,671l. 13s. 4d. over and above the fair wages at which ſome of the moſt ingenious and reſpectable Birmingham manufacturers could have undertaken the work, and have performed it in every reſpect as well as Mr. B.

Much might here be ſaid on the ſubject of the late and preſent copper coinage, which is here omitted, as no evidence further than the quantity coined, and the price paid, was brought before the committee.

Mr. Matthew Bolton.	*Obſervations, &c.*
p. 27.	
The price of copper at Hamburg, in January 1799, he ſtated to be 123l. 19s. per ton, and produced a letter from Stockholm, dated 8th February 1799, ſtating, " that his correſpondents there hoped to be able to furniſh him, in June or July, with 20 to 30 tons of copper."	A quantity too inconſiderable to merit notice.
He alſo produced a letter from Hamburg, ſtating, " That at that time copper was much demanded for England, and that there was no poſſibility of making any contracts for monthly or quarterly ſupplies."	Another proof of the ſcarcity of copper abroad.
Admitted the information he gave to Mr. Williams, as ſtated in his evidence *(p. 70, 71.)*, but ſaid he received it from his *own clerk*.	This clerk, it is well known, was Mr. B's confidential manager, and had been ſo for many years, he muſt, therefore, have had the beſt information on the ſubject.
Concluded with ſtating, that he was not a manufacturer of the articles there mentioned, nor *a judge of the price of them*.	Though he has before-ſtated (p. 14.) that he had been a manufacturer for forty years!

Mr. Samuel Smith.	*Obſervations, &c.*
p. 28.	
States, That he is a merchant of Birmingham, and exports chiefly the manufactures of that town: That the ſtate of them never was worſe, which he aſcribes *principally to the war*,	That is, unqueſtionably, the truth.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH.

Being put in mind of the high price of copper, he ſays, It is prejudicial in common articles in which copper and braſs are uſed, *viz.* common braſs buckles, copper buckles, braſs and copper thimbles, buttons, locks, door furniture, and copper tobacco boxes.

Obſervations, &c.

Moſt of theſe articles are trifling and unimportant, when put in competition with the general intereſts of the trade.

Being again reminded of the high price of copper, he ſtates, that it may enable foreigners to meet the Birmingham manufacturers; and that they are now able to underſel at Nuremberg, and other places in Germany.

It is eſtabliſhed by Mr. Grenfell (Appen. No. 32.), that when there was a riſe of the price of copper in England, in 1792, of 10 per cent. In Germany, at the ſame period, it actually roſe 37*l. per cent.* This witneſs, however, does not pretend to know the price of copper in Germany, though he ſays, generally, that it has been ſuch as to hurt the trade of Birmingham.

That an advance of 10 per cent. would conſiderably affect the ſale at foreign markets in comm on low priced articles.

That in the year 1790, they were able to *underſel foreigners*; and that various articles are ſold *cheaper* at the places where they are manufactured than at Birmingham.

So they always have been.

p. 29.

That the *fluctuation* of the prices of raw materials occaſions great inconveniences, and that the foreign articles were equal in quality to the Engliſh.

How are fluctuations in the prices of raw materials to be prevented? Are not theſe fluctuations as great, if not greater, abroad than in England? And will not thoſe unavoidably affect the markets here, as well as there?

That he is a merchant for the export trade only. States the diminution of the export to the Continent to be almoſt one half within the laſt *eight* years.

This is preciſely the period, ſince the commencement of the war, to which the decreaſe is undoubtedly owing

MR. SAMUEL SMITH.	*Obſervations*, &c.
That he does *not know* the quantity of articles exported from Birmingham, in which we are underſold, and *cannot* even ſay what quantities were exported by his *own houſe*, but, that the articles in which we were underſold, were equal in quality to our own.	Such ignorance needs no comment.
Admits, That the length of credit given may make a *difference* in favour of the Britiſh manufacturers. p. 30.	Certainly—an obvious difference, but, according to Mr. Bolton's evidence, the Birmingham capitals are ſo ſmall, that they cannot afford long credits.
That he does not know the proportion of the articles which they can or cannot manufacture abroad.	
That the low price of labour in Germany gives the manufacturers there a conſiderable advantage; and that, before the year 1790, there were *ſome inferior articles* which they always manufactured, and in which we were underſold.	An advantage which they always had, and muſt continue to have. Theſe were the articles originally fabricated abroad, and which even the ingenuity of Birmingham never could underſel; and foreigners ſupplied this country with them before they were manufactured in England at all, as is already obſerved.
p. 31. That he does not know the proportion of copper manufactured for exportation, and what for home conſumption.	All this ignorance is very unaccountable in a man who ſays he has, for ſo many years, been a Birmingham merchant, exporting its manufactures.
That he cannot conceive that the variation in the courſe of exchange has materially affected the exportation of the manufactures of Birmingham.	
Refers to a *letter* from Aſton, King and Co. (Appen. No. 16.) and con-	This letter proves, that the *war*, and not the high price of copper, has occaſioned the reduction of the exports.

Mr. Samuel Smith.	*Obſervations*, &c.
cludes by ſtating the various prices of *braſs foundery*.	This ſtatement is in direct contradiction to Mr. Bolton's, in his own hand writing. (Append. No. 36.)

Mr. William Villiers, *A Magiſtrate for the Town of Birmingham, produced Papers of the Sale of Ores in Cornwall.* (Append. No. 7.) p. 32.	*Obſervations*, &c.
States the great increaſe of the poor rates, from the great decreaſe of the trade of the town of Birmingham. That of 15000 houſes, only 3000 pay the poor rates.	The great increaſe of the poor rates is not peculiar to Birmingham; the ſame calamity, we believe, has taken place in every manufacturing town in England. It took place in Birmingham in the moſt flouriſhing period of their trade.
Did not know what proportion of the poor rates aroſe from the ſupport of the families of militia-men, and cannot ſtate what part of the increaſe of the Birmingham poor rates, after allowing for the war, the loſs of trade on the Continent by prohibitions, and the ſcarcity of 1795 and 1796, may be fairly aſcribed to the augmented price of copper.	
That the proportion of empty houſes in Birmingham is greater now than in 1792: That there has been no conſiderable increaſe of buildings in Birmingham ſince that period; and that the greateſt number of houſes are rated under 10l. per annum, and are not charged with the poor rates.	This is the natural conſequence of ſo many perſons having enliſted in the army. This witneſs ſtates, That he has ſometimes atteſted between 20 and 30 in a day.

MR. THOMAS HADLEY,
A Manufacturer of Birmingham, and concerned in the Export Trade.
p. 36.

Stated, that manufactories have been eſtabliſhed in France and Italy, in competition with thoſe of Birmingham. He ſaw ſome of them at Paris in the year 1789, two of which were conducted by Engliſh artiſts from Birmingham; and M. de Calonne had offered him encouragement to ſettle there, which he declined.

Did not know the extent to which they were carried on, but they were *every day increaſing*.—He knew not of any decreaſe in the export of Britiſh goods, in conſequence of the increaſe of the French manufactories.

The exports from this country he believed were at their greateſt extent about the years 1790 and 1791, owing to the increaſed demand from foreign markets.

That at Milan he had ſeen buttons and buckles, which came in competion with ours, and diminiſhed the demand from this country. Did not know the number of manufactories at Milan, nor the number of hands; nor the extent of the capitals employed.

That manufactories were eſtabliſhed at Vienna fourteen years ago by perſons from Birmingham, which occaſioned the entire loſs of that market for common goods, and in a great meaſure for the finer.

Obſervations, &c.

This witneſs, though he appears to be one of the moſt intelligent examined on the part of the complainants, has not noticed the price of the *raw material* (copper) abroad, without which no braſs can be made; and, unleſs it can be ſhewn that the price of that important ingredient is at a more moderate price abroad than in this country, their whole ground of complaint is totally unfounded.

At that period copper had riſen in Germany far above the price in England. (See Appendix, p. 32.)

MR. THOMAS HADLEY.

p. 37.

That almoſt all the produce of the Birmingham manufactories was *prohibited* in Ruſſia, (tools, and braſs foundery excepted) about five years ago, previous to which immenſe quantities of Birmingham manufactures were exported thither, amounting, as he apprehended, *to one third of the whole exports of Birmingham*; and that, on the whole, our exports to the Continent were increaſing from the year 1789 to 1792.

That he had no doubt but capitals may be found in other countries for the eſtabliſhment of manufactories abroad, ſo as materially to injure the trade of Birmingham, though not to the extent of ſubverting it.

That the decreaſe of the manufactories of Birmingham was occaſioned, in his opinion, by the *eſtabliſhment of ſimilar manufactories abroad, the war, the prohibitions, and the high duties.*

Obſervations, &c.

This alone has taken off that proportion.

He might have added, when they were interrupted by the war.

In addition to the teſtimony of Mr. Hadley, which ſhews that the prohibitions in Ruſſia have diminiſhed the exports of Birmingham to that country *one-third*; and that the new manufactories eſtabliſhed in Vienna, have alſo materially injured the trade, we are to conſider the evidence of Mr. Bolton, who ſays, (p.18.) that one-fourth of the whole trade was exported to France and Italy, which is now at an end. Theſe proportions, put together, amount nearly to three-fourths of the Birmingham trade, a decreaſe acknowledged to have ariſen from the war, and by prohibitions, but with which the price of Engliſh copper has nothing to do.

MR. JOSEPH LANE,
Of Wolverhampton.

Obſervations, &c.

p. 38.

Imputed the diminution of the trade of Wolverhampton to the *war*; and that, at preſent, they had not half the trade they had before the war.

Here it appears that the war has affected the trade of Wolverhampton, as well as that of Birmingham.

That the high price of braſs had not yet, in any great degree, affected their trade, though it may have a bad effect.

Then they complain before they are injured.

That from the preſent low ſtate of their trade they cannot raiſe their prices.

How can it be otherwiſe when ſo many new manufactories are eſtabliſhed abroad, and encouraged by prohibitions againſt Engliſh goods?

p. 39.

That the *home* conſumption, as well as the foreign, was much diminiſhed for articles of braſs. In the former, the greateſt part is uſed for *new buildings*.

Which, of courſe, have not increaſed, but, on the contrary, many of thoſe begun previous to the war now remain unfiniſhed, and falling into ruins.

That ſome years ago 300 tons of braſs were conſumed per annum at Wolverhampton, but not half that quantity in the year 1798.

For the reaſons he has before explained.

N. B. Meſſrs. Camac and Mills were alſo examined; but, as their evidence only went to ſhew the expedience of importing IRISH ORES duty free, a meaſure to which the Engliſh miners do not object, their evidence is here wholly omitted. (Vide Report, p. 42.)

Thus ends the evidence on the part of the Birmingham manufacturers, who have only been able to prove that Birmingham, in common with other manufacturing towns, has ſuffered by the war. That copper, like every other raw material, has fluctuated in price, according to the demand; that the manufacturers would be glad to keep it always at a moderate and fixed price; that they had combined into mining and mercantile companies with that view, but that prices had riſen by fair demand, no combination among the miners being poſſible; that a ſupply from abroad was doubtful; but that opening the ports might lower the price by diſcouraging our own miners; and that reſtraining the exportation, by overſtocking the market, would ſatisfy the manufacturers and proprietors, whatever became of the numerous intereſts, the vaſt population, and that immenſe and pleaſing diffuſion of ſucceſsful induſtry and happineſs, which depends on the preſent condition of all the branches of copper mining, and the copper trade.

REPORT ON THE COPPER TRADE.

On the part of the Miners and Copper Dealers.

JOHN VIVIAN, ESQ. p. 44.

Delivered in a ſtatement, made up from the Corniſh mine books, for ſix months, to the end of February 1799, dividing the mines into claſſes, (Appendix, No. 6.)

Obſervations, &c.

From the profit and loſs account of the Corniſh copper mines, for thoſe ſix months, it appears that they produced towards refunding a capital employed therein of 350,358l. *only* 9,915l.

It alſo appears, that the profits of all the copper mines in Cornwall, for ſeven years, to the end of 1798, were only 42,168l. the greater part of which ſum was due to Meſſrs. Bolton and Watt, for ſuppoſed ſavings to the miners, by their ſteam engines, ſo that, in fact, the mines have made little or *no profit*, from a capital of above 300,000l. for the laſt ſeven years, notwithſtanding the great complaints from Birmingham, of diſtreſſes occaſioned there by the ſuppoſed exceſſive high price of copper.

JOHN VIVIAN, Esq.

Declared it was impoſſible to name a general *ſtandard* for the mines in Cornwall, on account of the great difference of their production, the expenſe of working them, and the uncertainty of their profits.

That the ſtandard at 90, or thereabouts, would ſtop as many mines as produce more than one half of the whole copper of Cornwall, and the account proved, that even at a ſtandard of 106, the mines in general would have been wrought to a loſs.

That the expenſe of putting a deep mine to work, after being ſtopped for ſome time, would, in many inſtances, be ſo immenſe, that the miners could not be indemnified for any price ever given for copper in his memory. Several of thoſe mines, he ſaid, would coſt 50,000l. each.

Deſcribed the mode of ſales of the ores to be by ticketings or auctions, at which the higheſt bidder is always the purchaſer.

That the adventurers in mines are under the neceſſity of ſelling their ores at the weekly ticketing or auction, to pay the current coſt of their mines, and that they have no means of *creating an artificial price.*

He ſtated, from a particular account, the principal articles which conſtitute the expenſe of working the

Obſervations, &c.

The term *ſtandard* means the ſum agreed on per *ton of ore*, the ſmelting charge being deducted from the price of the ore.

This great expenſe is fully admitted by Mr. Bolton and the other witneſſes on the part of the Birmingham manufacturers.

Appendix No. 7.

This is even admitted by Mr Bolton.

It is not poſſible to have any ſtronger proof of the unavoidable neceſſity of advancing the price of copper.

JOHN VIVIAN, ESQ.

mines, and the great increaſe of their prices ſince 1791, from which it appeared, that the average riſe was full 50 per cent, (vide p. 45-46.)

He ſtated alſo the increaſed expenſe of drawing the water, to be from 30 to 40 per cent.

That the current monthly expenſe of working North Downs mines, alone was 4,400l. and upwards; and of the United Mines 3,500l. and upwards; and that in the preſent ſtate of the deep mines, it was neceſſary to lay out 50,000l. in the erection of fire engines for drawing the water.

That the perſons moſt materially intereſted in the continuance of theſe mines, are, firſt, the mine owners, whoſe engines and materials would be of little value if the mines were ſtopped; next the working miners, who are from 5 to 6000 men, and from 4 to 5000 women and boys, the whole of their families conſiſting of from 30 to 40,000, beſides carriers, colliers, and ſeamen, to which may be added the numberleſs hands employed in the braſs and other works dependent on theſe mines.

That from 8 to 10,000 tons of ſhipping are conſtantly employed in carrying the copper ore to Wales, and in bringing back coals for the conſumption of the mines.

Appendix, No. 8.

The *whole* of the hands employed in the Birmingham manufactories, according to Mr. Simcox's evidence, (p. 10.) amount to 5 or 6000 only, and it is much doubted whether there are ſo many.

This is no inconſiderable nurſery for ſeamen in the coaſting trade, which would be totally deſtroyed if the mines were not encouraged.

JOHN VIVIAN, ESQ.

Obſervations, &c.

The coals conſumed by the fire engines, he eſtimated at 60,000 tons annually, and in ſmelting the ores 150,000 tons more. p. 47.

The ſtoppage of the mines, he conceived, would affect the whole trade of Cornwall—it would ſtop the circulation of 230,000l. per annum. The eſtates muſt leſſen in value, and the poor could not be maintained.

This is a moſt important conſideration, when put in competition with the imaginary complaints of the Birmingham manufacturers.

That the ſtandard of ore, in 1793, was higher than 105l. the ſame as it was in September laſt. The account produced proves, that in March 1793, there was a riſe from 102 to 115, though in three months it fell to 75, in conſequence of the general derangement of public credit. And he is of opinion it would have continued at the high price, if that derangement (p. 48.) had not taken place, becauſe the riſe of the ſtandard was occaſioned by the riſe of manufactured copper in February 1793, which was then advanced from 12d. to 13d. per lb. and that riſe was gradual. At that time he did not hear of any complaint from the manufacturers, either of Birmingham, Sheffield, or any other place.

He accounted for the low annual average of working the mines from their comparative deepneſs, viz.—that a mine of 50 fathoms deep, would probably get more money at a ſtandard of 60, than the ſame mine

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would get (ſuppoſing it to be 150 fathoms deep) at the ſtandard of 100, beſides the produce of the mines may in many inſtances be leſs, and the ore poorer in quality.

Obſervations, &c.

p. 49.

That moſt of the miners could have better afforded to have ſold at a ſtandard of 74, in the year 1790, than they can at preſent at a ſtandard of 120.

This is a fact not to be diſputed, and it is almoſt unneceſſary to obſerve, that the price of the ores from theſe mines muſt riſe accordingly.

That there is a conſiderable difference between the expenſe of working the mines at the beginning of 1798, and the preſent time, particularly in the articles of coals, leather, powder, and wages.

See the preceding ſtatement of the great riſe in the price of the various materials uſed in working the mines.

That the gaining mines certainly cannot be conſidered as an inſurance for the loſing mines.

Accounted for ſo large a capital being employed in mines, only from the hope of *favourable circumſtances*; the mine may be richer, the price of copper higher, or, if the war was to ceaſe, the price of labour might be cheaper.

All theſe hopes naturally induced adventurers to perſevere, notwithſtanding their annual loſſes, and men who have entered into this line, are always diſpoſed to perſevere, when they have even a remote hope of ſucceſs. Of all others, mining is perhaps the moſt uncertain ſpeculation a man can engage in, and were there not people bred to it, ſo as to depend on the employment as the only means of their ſubſiſtence, Great Britain would ſoon ceaſe to be a mining country.

JOHN VIVIAN, ESQ. p. 51. *Obſervations, &c.*

That the number of adventurers who make a profit by the materials uſed in working the mines do not exceed one *fifth* or ſixth of the whole in capital. That they do not in this make a greater profit than they would in any other trade, and that they always ſupply at the loweſt prices at which the goods can be elſewhere purchaſed.

That the concerns of thoſe perſons as traders, is a diſtinct concern from their buſineſs as adventurers.

Produced a general ſtatement of the accounts of the Corniſh copper mines, from 1792 to 1798, incluſive, and ſtated the following to be the reſult, viz : p. 52.

The whole of the profits, for the laſt ſeven years, amount only to 42,168l. and that the claims of Meſſrs. Bolton and Watt, for the uſe of their engines, are not far ſhort of the *whole profit*. The coſt of 1798 exceeded the coſt of 1796 by 84,000l. while the ſums received for ores in 1798, exceed thoſe in 96 by 57,000l. only, owing principally to the decreaſed richneſs of the ores. In 1796 the average produce of the ores was $11\frac{3}{4}$ of copper in 100 tons. In the laſt ſix months of 1798 it was only $9\frac{1}{2}$; a ſtrong reaſon why the mines could not work in 1798 at the ſame ſtandard at which they could work in 92.

Beſide the additional prices of the articles of expenſe, as before ſtated.

That the number of gaining mines, in the laſt ſeven years, has been to the loſing mines in the proportion of 11 to 63.

Produced liſts of the adventurers in the mines of Cornwall, to prove that adventurers who are not traders go on from year to year, though not a *profitable* concern.—That in two mines only do traders hold a majority of ſhares; that the quantity and value of the materials furniſhed by ſome traders are ſo trifling that their profits can only compenſate for ſmall loſſes; and that the profits on the largeſt quantity of materials cannot compenſate for any great loſs, but where the trader has a very ſmall ſhare in the mine. Stated the number of mines worked in Cornwall amounting to 70 or 80 different adventures, and that the greater part of the ore had been raiſed from a very few of them; that the engines and materials of an exhauſted mine cannot be erected in a new mine, without incurring a very great expenſe.

That in the event of the preſent mines of Angleſea and Cornwall being exhauſted, the general opinion in Cornwall is, that new mines would be diſcovered if proper encouragement were given to ſearch for them, by not reſtraining the export, &c. More than forty adventures of that ſort, he ſaid, were then carrying on in Cornwall; and within the laſt ſix months upwards of 17,000l. had been expended in ſearch of new mines.

JOHN VIVIAN, ESQ.

That the keeping up the ſtandard would be a great *encouragement* to new adventures, and to the continuance of the preſent.

He imputed the cauſe of the late riſe of the ſtandard of ores to the *increaſed* demand for copper, and the *decreaſed* produce of the Angleſea, and other European mines; the demands of ſome companies for ores, to enable them to fulfil contracts.

The purchaſers for the coinage have alſo had great influence in raiſing the ſtandard, by introducing a competition between them and other companies; a fair competion, however, occaſioned by their wants.

p. 55.

By the ticketing papers it appeared, that on the 24th of January laſt, 120l. and upwards, was paid for ores by Freeman and Co. of Briſtol. On the 7th of February conſiderably upwards of 120l. by the Mines Royal and Birmingham company. On the 21ſt the Roſe Copper Company bought the far greater part at 120l. and upwards, when the witneſs received orders from *Mr. Williams* not to exceed 120l. *on his account.*

Obſervations, &c.

Keeping up the ſtandard would alſo induce perſons converſant in mining to lay out money in exploring other parts of the kingdom, where copper ore doubtleſs may be found; but that encouragement taken away by the propoſed reſtrictions, the mining ſpirit would be damped and deſtroyed; and we muſt, conſequently, look to foreign countries for a ſupply of this valuable metal.

He might have added the *increaſed expenſe* of working the Corniſh mines as another ſtriking cauſe, as before ſtated.

This is an undeniable proof, that Mr. W. did not raiſe the price or graſp at the monopoly imputed to him in the Houſe of Commons by the advocates for the Birmingham manufacturers.

JOHN VIVIAN, ESQ.

In the months of December, January, February and March laſt, when the great riſe took place, the witneſs, as agent for the Cheadle and Paris Mine Company, in the three firſt months did not purchaſe above one-fourth of the quantity ſold; and in March not above one-eighth.

In thoſe months there was a very general competition among all the companies.

p. 56.

From the late accounts of the Corniſh ores, it appeared that the produce in 100 tons of ore was three tons of copper leſs than the uſual average.

Being aſked what, in his opinion, would be the effect on the mines and trade of this country if the trade in copper was made *perfectly free*, he anſwered, that, in his opinion, a free export and import of copper would be a meaſure, under the preſent circumſtances of the copper trade, highly advantageous to the mining and manufacturing intereſts of this kingdom.

Obſervations, &c.

In this opinion Mr. Vivian is ſupported by the concurring teſtimony of Mr. Williams, who, it is well known, is the greateſt dealer in this kingdom; and, conſequently, the moſt competent judge of the effects of ſuch a meaſure.

MR. JOHN WILLIAMS,
An Agent to ſeveral of the Mines.

Stated, that the *low ſtandard* during the exiſtence of the metal company, was the cauſe of ſtopping ſeveral of the mines, viz. Dalcoath, North Downs, Cheeſewater, and Wheal-towan.

That the proportion of the labour in driving the levels and ſinking the ſhafts, to the general expenſe of the mine, is about one-fifth of the whole; and that if any of the mines ſhould be reduced to the neceſſity of working *ineffectually*, in twelve months they would ceaſe to produce any copper at all.

That each adventure is a ſeparate concern, and a ſet of books is kept for each.

Obſervations, &c.

Here a *low* ſtandard is proved to have ſtopped ſeveral of the mines, which afterwards occaſioned an immenſe expenſe to the adventurers, particularly in the North Downs and Cheeſewater mines, each of which coſt the proprietors upwards of 60,000l. before they could be put into a working ſtate.

Mr. Bolton proves that North Downs coſt the proprietors about 60,000l. and it is well known the other was not leſs expenſive.

MR. WILLIAM CARNE.

p. 59.

Stated the general circumſtances that create the increaſed expenſe of working the mines, viz.

Obſervations, &c.

The evidence of this witneſs, who is an agent to ſeveral mines, affords another proof of the great additional expenſe of working the deep mines, an expenſe which muſt neceſſarily increaſe as they become deeper.

MR. WILLIAM CARNE.

First, the water charge. In 1791 the Hurland mine, for which the witneſs is agent, wrought with two ſteam engines, and conſumed but 75 weigh of coals monthly. It now required two more engines, and conſumed 160 *weigh of coals* per month.

In 1791 they gave but 20 guineas a fathom to ſink their engine ſhaft; they now pay 60 guineas for the ſame work, and their ores now are not ſo rich, in proportion, as they then were

He ſtated that two mines, viz. Hurland and Prince George, are ſupplied by the Hayle Company, who have no ſhare in any of the mines.

Obſervations, &c.

A weigh of coals contains 3 tons, and conſequently 160 weigh per month are 480 tons, an expenſe ſcarce credible to thoſe not converſant in mines, and very proper to be fully underſtood by ſuch as are diſpoſed to diſcourage and depreſs that ſpirit of adventure ſo peculiar to this country.

MR. ANDREW VIVIAN,
An Agent for Nine Mines,

p. 59.

Stated, That there are many mines in which the adventurers do *not* ſupply the materials. That the preſent circumſtances and ſituation of many of them, were greatly *worſe* of late, and if the price of copper ſhould be *lowered*, ſeveral of them muſt *ſtop*.

Obſervations, &c.

This witneſs completely refutes the inſinuations of certain individuals, that the Corniſh mines were ſupported by their mercantile proprietors, who profited more by the ſale of the materials than they loſt in the mining branch—and his evidence is ſo amply confirmed by other reſpectable witneſſes, that there cannot now remain the ſhadow of a doubt on the ſubject.

MR. ANDREW VIVIAN. *Obſervations, &c.*

p. 60.

That the effect of any regulation depreſſing the ſtandard of ores, or the ſpirit of adventuring, would certainly prevent ſome perſons from going on, who are now in ſearch of copper mines, ſtop new mines about to be ſet to work, and probably alſo ſome of the deep mines, particularly Dalcoath mine, which is likely to produce a great quantity of copper.

MR. WILLIAM COLLINS, *Obſervations, &c.*

Had been a Manufacturer in Birmingham about 14 *or* 15 *years.*

p 61.

That a manufacturer, feeling himſelf aggrieved, ought, in witneſs's opinion, to ſtate the nature and detail of his grievances, which he might collect and diſcloſe without inconvenience to his trade, namely,

To enumerate the articles now manufactured abroad, &c. which were heretofore manufactured at home, diſtinguiſhing the value of the goods, and the proportion of metals in each, and ſtating the riſe, increaſe, extent, and decline of his trade in thoſe articles, by referring to the average exportation to the Continent for as many years as had come within his knowledge, and, in his opinion, any merchant who did not give ſuch information, refuſed it from a deſire of *concealment.*

This unqueſtionably would have been the fair and upright mode of ſtating the grievances complained of. Inſtead of which, none of the Birmingham gentlemen examined, *could* give any account even of their *own exports*—what they have been, or to what they are reduced, except that Simcox and Bolton allege them generally to be reduced one half. Yet Mr. B. admits the loſs by prohibitions abroad, to be nearly equal to that reduction.

PASCOE GRENFELL, ESQ.

Observations, &c.

p. 62.

Stated, That he had been acquainted with the copper trade in foreign markets ſince the year 1785.

After mentioning the countries abroad, where copper is raiſed, the reſult was, that the only places from whence any conſiderable ſupply of copper could be obtained, were Sweden, Cadiz, and Smyrna.

The whole of the important evidence of this witneſs is founded on unqueſtionable documents obtained in the courſe of his correſpondence with foreign merchants of the firſt reſpectability.

p. 63.

Delivered in an account of the prices of copper abroad at different periods, for 5, 7, and 10 years, with the prices of Britiſh copper in England, during the ſame period. *(Vide Appendix, No. 32.)*

This account proves the prices to have been higher abroad than in this country, in contradiction to the *data* attempted to be maintained by the evidence produced on the part of the Birmingham manufacturers. Theſe gentlemen, in fact, proved their own incompetency to form an opinion on the ſubject, as they acknowledged that they had never imported any foreign copper, and they had only to truſt to vague correſpondence.

Read a letter from his correſpondent in Sweden, dated 14th June 1796, by which it appeared, that Sweden then produced about 800 tons of copper, of which one third is made into braſs in the country, about 70 tons uſed for home conſumption, and the remainder exported.

He ſtated, that the mines in Sweden are worked partly by Government.

PASCOE GRENFELL, ESQ.

He declared his opinion to be, that if the demand were increaſed, the quantity of copper from Sweden could not be increaſed; and his concluſion, upon the whole, with reſpect to Sweden, was, that the copper, excluſive of the duty, would be dearer to our manufacturers than that from our own mines, and it would not be in our power to obtain the neceſſary quantity; neither could we obtain any permanent ſupply from Spain.

The price of copper at Conſtantinople, he ſtated to have been 130l. per ton on board in March laſt.

That at Stockholm, in April laſt, no copper could be obtained at *any price*.

That the ſupply of copper was very ſhort at Hamburg in April, at which time Engliſh cake and Swediſh copper were from 133l. to 134l. per ton on ſhore.

If there were any Engliſh cake at Hamburg in April laſt, it muſt have been an old importation, and a very ſmall quantity; for it is certain, that this article has not been exported thither, or elſewhere, for 12 months *paſt, or more*. As to copper from Cadiz, none can now be had, the ſtock there, in Auguſt laſt, being a very few tons only, which then ſold at from 170l. to 180l. per ton Engliſh.

It is proper to obſerve here, that the inſinuations of the Birmingham people, reſpecting the riſe of copper of late years, which they ſay originated and continued by contrivances in England, are *unfounded*, the contrary being the fact. The riſe in Sweden, according to this evidence, from the year 89 to 96, having been 71 per cent. and that in England, in the ſame period, did not exceed 47 l. (Appendix, 32.)

No.

THOMAS WILLIAMS, ESQ. M. P. *Obſervations, &c.*

p. 65.

After a clear and comprehenſive detail of the riſe and progreſs of the copper trade of Great Britain, from the firſt diſcovery of copper ore in this country in 1691 to the preſent period, Mr. W. proceeded to ſtate,

That ſoon after that diſcovery a copper company was eſtabliſhed in England by royal charter.

In 1694 a copper coinage took place, and Government paid at the rate of 18d. per lb. for the copper which was of *Swediſh* produce.

In 1717 a farther coinage took place of 700 tons of *Engliſh* copper, for which Government paid at the rate of 15¾d. per lb. or 147l. per ton.*

Since that period many copper and braſs works have been erected in this country; and by that ſpirit, energy, and enterpriſe, for which our people are ſo juſtly diſtinguiſhed, the moſt valuable branches of the copper and braſs trade have been eſtabliſhed in *England*, which before had been carried on for ages in *Germany* and *Holland*.

The *relative* value of money at that period, compared with the preſent, according to the beſt calculations, ſhews, that 250l. at this time, will go no farther than 100l. did then, ſo that copper may be ſaid to have been ſold at *that time* at the rate of 5s. per lb. of the preſent money. To prove this, the following calculations of the *relative* value of money from th year 1720 are given from the beſt authority.

£100 in 1720 is now worth	£218	13	6	5-12ths.
——— 1730 ———	207	4	11	5-12ths.
——— 1740 ———	195	16	4	6-12ths.
——— 1750 ———	178	19	5	1-12th.
——— 1760 ———	164	6	6	4-12ths.
——— 1770 ———	146	7	1	
——— 1780 ———	131	12	3	5-12ths.
——— 1790 ———	113	6	1	6-12ths.

*This, on the principle of the above calculation, is near three times the value of what Mr. Bolton paid for the copper for the penny and two-penny coinage.

At that period the raw material was drawn from *Sweden*, at ſuch prices as the merchants there choſe to put on it.

That from the year 1720 to 1772 Engliſh cake copper was ſold from 130l. down to 100l. per ton, and wrought copper from 14d. to 18d. per lb. ſo that no very material alteration of price took place for thoſe 52 years.

In 1731 the Eaſt India Company began to export; copper in the cake. In 1751 they exported manufactured copper, for which they paid 135l. 6s. 8d. per ton.

From 1751 to 1772 they increaſed their exports; the average price was about 105l. per cake, and 124l. for manufactured copper.

On the diſcovery of new copper mines in 1773, and large ſupplies of fine copper coming to market, the price gradually fell till 1781, when the Eaſt India Company firſt paid ſo low as 79l. per ton for cake, in conſequence of the great competition which took place at the India Houſe between the Corniſh and Angleſea Companies. In that year the Corniſh Companies ſacrificed 25,000l. and upwards in the *reduction* of the price on the India contracts, for the *profeſſed purpoſe* of keeping the Angleſea Company out of the market.

p. 67.

From that time a warm conteſt enſued between the parties at all the markets in the kingdom. The Smelters of Corniſh copper at length feel-

This *artificial* reduction of the price is mentioned by Mr. Simcox in his evidence, (p. 5.) as the average price of copper at Birmingham for five years.

ing themſelves ſerious loſers, propoſed to the witneſs, as the acting proprietor of the Angleſea mines, to come to terms with them, for the purpoſe of bringing their metal to market at a fair ſtipulated price.

Stipulations for that purpoſe were propoſed, and an agreement was entered into at the requeſt of a member of the Corniſh Metal Company, that their ſtock ſhould be conſigned to the witneſs for ſale. This he accompliſhed, and was thereby enabled not only to reimburſe to the ſubſcribers all their capitals advanced with intereſt, but to pay off their debts, which were very conſiderable. All this he completed by the end of the year 1791, to which time all the copper dealers and manufacturers in the kingdom, availed themſelves of the reduced prices, making a ſaving of from 20l. to 25l. per cent. beyond all former profits, to the loſs of the Corniſh and Angleſea mines.

p. 68.

In April 1783 a Committee of the Eaſt India Company ſtated to the Court of Directors, that, notwithſtanding the increaſed demand for copper, the Company had ſaved, by the reduction of the price, from 1774 to 1782 incluſive, the ſum of 300,375l. and from 1782 to 1791 340,000l. making in all a clear profit of 640,375l. ariſing from the conteſt between Angleſea and Cornwall.

During this period, when the ſales of all the copper, both of Cornwall and Angleſea, and forming almoſt the whole copper trade of Great Britain, were in the hands of Mr. Williams *alone*, the price was not arbitrarily raiſed. He perceived that the real intereſts of the trade required the preſervation of *all the mines*, and the price then, at it does now, bore a fair proportion to the expenſe.

p. 69.

He ſtated, that for 10 years, from 1781 to 1791, he was very converſant in the Birmingham trade, having kept a copper warehouſe there for that period. From his own experience, joined to the information of other copper ſellers, his opinion is, that previous to the year 1792, Birmingham never conſumed more than 1100 tons in any one year, and often not 1000. Calculating their conſumption at 1000 tons, he is certain the manufacturers gained at the rate of 20l. to 25l. per ton upon the whole quantity beyond their uſual and reaſonable profits. They themſelves computed that 1000 tons would be fully equal to the annual demands of Birmingham, and he propoſed, in the year 1790, to contract with them for that quantity at 84l. per ton for cake for five years certain. This offer was, however, refuſed.

At this time Mr. Williams furniſhed at leaſt three-fourths of the whole conſumption of Birmingham, and his evidence is here oppoſed to that of Mr. Simcox, who roundly ſtates the annual conſumption from 1500 to 2000 tons. (Report, p. 8.)

p. 70.

That in the beginning of 1792, a great change took place in the copper trade. The competition of the miners for the purpoſe of *underſelling* each other, ceaſed, and another of a different tendency aroſe from the ſcheme of Meſſrs. Simcox and Co. They purchaſed ſmelting works, and opened *old* mines that had been abandoned in Cornwall, and, by overbidding the *old* copper companies at

the ticketings, bought larger quantities than *they* did. Being thus the greateſt purchaſers, they of courſe raiſed the ſtandard of ores, and in time, with the Roſe Copper Company, they raiſed a general competition among the buyers, which, with the demand for the late coinage, certainly occaſioned the great riſe of the ſtandard of ores, and, of courſe, the *advance of the price of the metal*, but which, in fact, is *not now equal* to the ſtandard of ores. The ticketing papers prove theſe facts beyond contradiction. (Appendix, No. 35.)

In 1792, when copper had riſen from 84l. to 100l. per ton, and when Mr. Simcox, as one of the delegates from Birmingham, propoſed the importation of foreign copper, duty free, and a prohibition againſt the exportation of Engliſh copper, the manufactures of Birmingham *flouriſhed more than uſual.* This is clearly proved by the paper marked B, (Appendix, No. 36.) and corroborated by letters under Mr. Bolton's hand, written at the time.

He had alſo Mr. Bolton's authority to ſay, that in the repreſentations made to the Council in 1792, the importance of the trade of Birmingham was *greatly exaggerated*, as it is now, both in the number of hands employed, and in its relative connection

Thus, it is eſtabliſhed, that the preſent price of copper was not effected by *combination*, or by any *monopolizing* influence, but by the natural reſult of a *fair and open competition among the buyers.*

It has already been obſerved, that at the time when Mr. Simcox made theſe propoſitions, under the groſs miſrepreſentation that the foreign manufacturers had their copper *lower* than it was ſold at in England, they actually paid near 20 per cent. *more* for it. *Vide* Account produced by Mr. Grenfell. (Appendix, No. 32.)

At this time Mr. Bolton did *not* join Mr. Simcox in his application.

with copper. And in one of thoſe letters he promiſes to ſend a very extenſive catalogue of Birmingham articles, in which *no copper* is uſed.

Rep. p. 71.

After ſtating the great importance of the copper mines and copper trade to the Britiſh navy, and to the mercantile intereſts of the kingdom, Mr. W. gave a clear and comprehenſive detail of his diſcovery, with the aſſiſtance of two ingenious artiſts of Birmingham, of the mode of preparing *copper* bolts and *copper* faſtenings for the navy, which, after the fulleſt trials, were approved of, and adopted by the Navy Board, and have ever ſince been univerſally uſed, to the incalculable advantage of the Britiſh marine.

p. 72.

They are now alſo generally uſed in the mercantile ſhips of this country, with improvements beyond thoſe in the navy.

All theſe moſt valuable branches of the trade, muſt neceſſarily depend upon the mines of our own country, and the ſpirit and enterpriſe of thoſe who carry them on, without any of thoſe encouragements from the Government, which the mines of other countries enjoy. Then he gives a particular ſtatement of all the *foreign* mines in which copper is raiſed, all of which were encouraged and ſup-

Mr. Villiers alſo proves, (Rep. p. 33.) that more than *one half* of the trade of Birmingham conſiſts of articles in which *no copper* is uſed—and now they come forward to ſtate, that the *whole* trade of the place is endangered, from the high price of copper *alone!*

Mr. Grenfell, in his evidence, (p. 63.) ſtates, that the *Swediſh* mines are worked partly by the Government of that country.

ported by their reſpective Governments. They had all great privileges and immunities, and none of them, he believed, paid any duty on the materials, and in working them.

He ſtated, that in the year 1783, it was given in evidence before the Houſe of Commons, that the duties paid to our Government, for the materials uſed in the Cornwall copper mines *only*, amounted to 70,000l. per ann. and upwards, while their profits did not perhaps amount to a fourth part of the ſum. p. 74.

That in conſequence of our Government having, in the year 1780, prohibited the exportation of *ſheet copper*, the French erected copper manufactories of their own, by which England was wholly deprived of a valuable branch of trade, eſtabliſhed at the expenſe of great capitals, and by the unremitted exertions of ingenious induſtry.

The Spaniſh Government follow the example of the French; and thus we loſt the trade to Spain and Italy. At the commencement of the preſent war, a ſimilar prohibition took place in our exports to Hamburg and Holland, which were alſo loſt to us, together with Portugal and America. p. 75.

If, according to Mr. Vivian's evidence, which there is no reaſon to queſtion, thoſe duties have ſince increaſed near 50 per cent. their preſent amount muſt be 120,000l. per *annum* at the leaſt; and the profits of all the mines put together, according to the ſame evidence, were only 42,168. (p. 20.) during the whole of the laſt ſeven years, while Government profited annually to the immenſe amount here ſtated.

It was now propoſed to deprive us of the exports to India, which we have uninterruptedly enjoyed for a ſeries of *ſeventy years*. The miſchievous effects of this, it was impoſſible to calculate. [redacted] declares his opinion to be, that, if this bill ſhould paſs into a law, England will not long have to boaſt of her *mines* and *metallic manufactures*; and *he* would take upon himſelf to ſay, *that the mines of Angleſea, as well as thoſe of Cornwall, muſt be involved in the general ruin.*

p. 75.

That, previous to the year 1772, when the Derbyſhire and Welſh mines were diſcovered, the price of copper never was known *under* 100l. per ton, but was frequently from 105l. to 120l.

That he knew nothing of the French copper trade for the laſt ſeven years; but he had been informed, about 14 or 15 years ago, by a *Monſ. Le Camus*, the manager of the great copper manufactory at *Romilly*, that the French derived their ſupplies of copper from *Smyrna* and *Conſtantinople* principally, but that they had then conſiderable quantities alſo from South America and Sweden. He therefore concluded, that they *continue* to be ſupplied from thoſe markets.

Stated the application of copper for the merchantmen, and in what it dif-

The great utility of this practice is fully exemplified in the ſubſequent

fered from that of the navy. In the uſe of copper nails throughout their hulls, eſpecially under the water's edge, and in the uſe of copper deck nails, which are now almoſt univerſally adopted.

Stated the mode in which the Eaſt India Company contract for their annual ſupplies of copper, viz. tenders were ſent in by the companies, or perſons offering, on a certain day; but, of late years, thoſe tenders have availed little. It is, in fact, a *treaty* between the Eaſt India Company and the copper companies, who always unite on that occaſion. The copper companies previouſly agree among themſelves, that they ſhall furniſh the contract, when made, in proportion to their *reſpective ſtocks*; and, in order to aſcertain the fair price at which they ſhould ſell, they conſult the *average* ſtandard of the prices of the preceding year. This he ſtated to ſhew, that the prices were fixed on fair grounds.

p. 77.

That the conſequence of ſtopping the export to India, even for a *limited time*, would, in his opinion, be productive of the greateſt evil to this country. Hitherto the Indians had obtained the article from England in all the different aſſortments they required. If theſe were to be prohibited, they will be under the neceſſity

part of Mr. Williams's evidence, but it may not be improper here to notice (in addition to what he ſaid) the great advantage derived to the public from the practice of faſtening and ſheathing veſſels with copper in *commerce alone*, by the reduction of the premium of inſurance on veſſels and their cargoes, which is univerſally a ſaving of 20 per cent. and in many inſtances 25 per cent. under thoſe of *un-coppered* veſſels and their cargoes.

The importance of this branch of their trade is very ably and forcibly ſtated

of erecting manufactories in India, by which they will be able to convert the *Perſian copper* to all their purpoſes, and conſequently the trade will be loſt to this country, as well as to the Eaſt India Company.

He remembered the time when the mines of this country would have proſpered, at the ſtandard of 100l. for their ores, with the uſual duty upon imported copper; but that was no longer the caſe. It was evident, that while the expenſes of working the mines continued to *increaſe*, the ſtandard of ores muſt *riſe* in proportion, to keep the *mines going*.

He was of opinion, that any *limitation* of the ſtandard would tend to extinguiſh that ſpirit of adventure, by which the mines of this country have hitherto flouriſhed, and that any *check* whatever would be hazardous in the extreme.

He obſerved, that at no period were our fleets ſo prompt for ſervice on the ſhorteſt notice, as they have been during the preſent war, owing principally to the improvements in our ſhips, by *copper faſtenings* and *copper ſheathing* together with the vigilance of the officers in the naval department. Under the old ſyſtem of *iron* faſtenings, in former wars, one third of our fleet was generally in port, or in dock, under *re-*

ſtated in the Report from the Committee of Shipping. (Appen. No. 12.)

This opinion is corroborated by the concurring teſtimony of Mr. Vivian.

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pairs. All theſe inconveniences were now happily removed, by the adoption of *copper bolts*, which never ruſt or corrode in any degree, but, on the contrary, they *preſerve* the timber.

Theſe, with many other ſavings, render the greateſt advantages to our navy, while they are equally beneficial in the merchant's ſervice.

In proof of this, he ſtated that a veſſel from Liverpool, of 350 tons, copper-bolted, and ſheathed in April, 1785, had lately ſailed from thence on her *ſixteenth* voyage; and in that time, all her repairing expenſes did not exceed 55l. while an *iron-faſtened* and *wooden-ſheathed* ſhip of the ſame tonnage, never was known to make more than 11 or 12 voyages in the ſame time; and each at an *extra* expenſe of 2000l. and upwards, *beyond that* of the coppered ſhip. A ſtill more important ſaving is made in copper-ſheathed ſhips carrying ſlaves from Africa to the Weſt Indies, in the number of lives ſaved by the comparative *ſhortneſs* of the paſſage. p. 79.

According to the preſent ſtate of the mines of Europe in general, he was of opinion, that England is the only country which has the proper reſources for the continuance of the metal, provided the enterpriſing ſpirit of our miners is encouraged.

Obſervations, &c.

The truth of this is now proved by experience, and is univerſally acknowledged by every man converſant with the ſubject.

This very important fact, not only in the *diſpatch* with which the voyages were performed, but in the great ſaving of expenſe, demonſtrate, in a very ſtriking point of view, the utility and advantages of uſing *copper only* in the ſheathings and faſtenings for ſhips.

This is an object to which no competition from Birmingham ought to be compared, even if the complaints of the manufacturers were *well founded.*

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p. 79.

That the quantity of coals conſumed in the ſmelting of copper in the braſs works and copper manufactories was immenſe: he himſelf formerly conſumed at the rate of 750 chaldrons a day, the whole year round, but did not now conſume ſo many. He ſuppoſed that five times that quantity of coals was then conſumed in all the different copper and braſs manufactories of this country, which in the raiſing only muſt have given bread to *many thouſand colliers* and their families.

The number of people who get their bread by means of the copper mines, and copper and braſs manufactories, in his opinion, exceeded 120,000 ſouls.

p. 80.

That the preſent high price of copper at market, is not equal to the price lately given for ores. That he had never heard, except from ſome people of Birmingham, that the price of copper was ſo high as to injure their trade; and all admitted, that though the copper-ſellers might afford the article cheaper, it had not yet reached the *old price, at which the Birmingham manufacturers made great fortunes.*

Obſervations, &c.

This great conſumption of an article which gives trade to ſo many thouſands, ought certainly to be deemed an object of great national conſideration. It muſt ceaſe, of courſe, if the mines are ſtopped, or in proportion as they are diſcouraged.

The whole of the hands employed in the Birmingham manufactories, according to Mr. Simcox, are only from 5 to 6000, and even that number is ſuppoſed to be much exaggerated.

In this opinion Mr. Vivian co curred.

p. 80.

That he had conducted full half of the copper trade, for ſome years paſt, and had a general knowledge how it was conducted by all the other companies, except the two Birmingham companies, of which he knew little, beyond their purchaſes of ores in Cornwall. The amount of the capitals employed, he eſtimated at conſiderably more than *two millions of money*.

He eſtimated the value of the coals employed in the copper and braſs manufactories, at an average of five ſhillings per chaldron, to amount to 342,187 l. one half of which might be put down as wages paid for the ſupport of the colliers and their families.

That the profits on the capital employed, except in a very few inſtances, muſt depend on the price of the raw material, the expenſe of its conveyance, the price of coal and of labour, ſituation, land or water carriage, mill powers, ſkilfulneſs of workmen, the diſtance to market, whether the goods are ſold for ready money or credit, with the degree of credit, and various other circumſtances. It was therefore impoſſible to ſay, what was or ought to be the proper difference between the price of ore and that of fine copper at market, in any particular ſtate.

Theſe are the true foundations on which the price muſt neceſſarily depend, and not on the vague conjectures of the Birmingham manufacturers.

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p. 82.

That he had been engaged in the ſmelting buſineſs about 20 years, and he has known that the *medium* difference between the *ſtandard* and the *price* of the cake copper, has frequently been from 1l. to 20l. per ton; and ſometimes the price of fine copper has been under the ſtandard of ores.

That the Angleſea mines, about 14 or 15 years ago, produced near 3000 tons of copper annually.—In the preſent year, he was of opinion they would hardly produce more than half that quantity. About four years ago, the produce was from 1900 to 2000 tons. At the laſt calculation of its produce about 12 months ago, it was about 1700 tons. p. 83.

That it was the intereſt of the miner, to promote a fair competition in the purchaſe of his ores, as it was of the buyers to get the beſt price they could for the metal from the conſumers, whoever they may be. The Birmingham Company who purchaſe ores were their *own conſumers*.

The price therefore at which they ſell their ores cannot fairly be eſtimated in the general average.

That he conceived the French might obtain copper from Smyrna in neutral bottoms for the uſe of their fleet at Breſt. He had been informed by *M. le Camus*, that the French government, during the American

war, laughed at the Engliſh government for their attempt to prevent the French navy from being copper ſheathed. In ſuch an important national concern *they* did not regard a trifling extra expenſe, but procured the copper from Sweden, coſt what it might. From the information of ſome of the captains of the French prizes lately brought to our ports, he underſtood, that *copper ſheets* in France, now coſt from 40 to 45 *ſous* per lib.

That he never ſold any copper lower than 68l. in the cake in the year 1782 or 1783, and there was at that time a profit on the Angleſea copper.

There is good reaſon to believe that theſe mines cannot profit much now at double that price, and their produce is not more than one *third* of what it was then.

Being aſked what in his opinion would be the effect on the mines and trade of this country of making the trade on copper perfectly *free?*

He anſwered, That after full twenty years cloſe attention and indefatigable labour in the general trade, from the working of the mines to the ultimate ſale of the copper at the home and foreign markets, in all its *various ſtates*. —After ſtudying alſo the produce and effect of all the *foreign mines*, markets, and manufactures during all the time, and making imports of copper every year previous to the preſent, from all the *foreign* markets where he could, without ſerious loſs, with a

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view of gaining authentic knowledge of the ſtate of the trade; He was of opinion, That a perfectly free and open trade out of, and into this country, would be more beneficial both to the country and to the mines, the trade and manufactures of every deſcription, than ſubjecting them to any reſtraints under the idea of regulations, however well intended, and with this idea ſtrongly impreſſed on his mind, he ſhould rejoice *that the whole trade were perfectly free and open, not from a wiſh of advantage to himſelf, as he had determined, at the cloſe of the year, to take his leave of the trade.*

Mr. WILLIAM DAVEY, — *Obſervations, &c.*

An Agent for ſeveral Mines.

Stated, That he had lately received an account of the quantity of ore ſampled ſince he had been in town, and believed it would not ſell for as much money as it coſt in raiſing it. The produce of Poldice and Wheal Unity he thought would be much the ſame as uſual, but attended with much more expenſe, two new engines being wanted, which would

The whole of the teſtimony of this witneſs ſtrongly enforces the neceſſity of encouraging the mines.

Mr. William Davey. *Obſervations, &c.*

coſt 18,000l. beſides creating an additional monthly expenſe. The United Mines were in the ſame predicament.

Mr. Thomas Wood, *Obſervations, &c.*

A merchant, ſtated the Hamburg prices current of copper of the 30th and 31ſt of March, to have been 139l. 10s. to 143l. per ton for ſheet copper, which was in the proportion from 128l. to 131l. for cake.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

N. B. *The Pages refer to the Copy printed by Order of the Houſe of Commons.*

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A.

APPENDIX, No. 17.

GENERAL STATE of the COPPER MINES in CORNWALL, for Seven Years, ending 31st December 1798.

Year.	Adventurers Amount of Ore.			Labour.			Materials.			Total Coſt.			Profit.			Loſs.			
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1792	279,331	15	10	150,824	12	3	91,361	6	4	251,865	19	11	27,465	15	11				
1793	283,853	12	11	176,333	2	7	110,122	15	2	294,226	15	—	—		—	10,373	2	1	
1794	293,853	10	11	179,187	15	5	111,093	19	11	294,775	19	5	—		—	922	8	6	
1795	305,320	6	9	189,713	10	1	111,640	2	3	312,047	7	5	—		—	6,727	—	8	
1796	348,836	12	11	201,995	18	6	105,925	12	1	324,897	18	4	23,938	14	7				
1797	320,606	15	9	189,821	15	11	109,008	7	3	309,060	14	10	11,546	—	11				Net Profit for Seven Years
1798	405,488	15	9	253,601	12	3	146,253	16	3	408,248	7	11	—		—	2,759	12	2	£. s. d.
£.	2,237,291	10	10	1,341,478	7	—	785,405	19	3	2,195,123	2	10	62,950	11	5	20,782	3	5	42,168 8 —

N. B.—The Columns of Labour and Materials added together do not make up the Total Coſt, becauſe the Accounts ſent from ſome Mines, do not diſtinguiſh the Amount of Labour from Materials; and therefore could be no otherwiſe arranged, than by being carried at once to the Column of Total Coſts.—This may be ſeen by referring to the following Accounts of each Year.

B.

APPENDIX, No. 8.

PRICES of MATERIALS purchaſed by the Mines.

	In the Year 1791.	In the Year 1798.	Advance per Centum.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Deals	7 10 — per Cwt.	10 10 — per Cwt.	£. 40.
Timber	— — 10 per Foot.	— 1 4 per Foot.	60.
Powder	4 10 — per Cwt.	10 — — per Cwt.	120.
Ropes	1 12 — per D°.	2 12 — per D°.	40.
Coals	2 10 — per Wey.	3 10 — per Wey.	40.
Candles	— 7 — per Dozen.	— 8 3 per Dozen.	17.
Leather	— 1 5 per Lib.	— 2 — per Lib.	40.
Boiler Plates .	1 10 — per Cwt.	1 18 — per Cwt.	27.
Iron	— 18 — per D°.	1 4 — per D°.	33.
Labour . . from .	£. 1. 10. per Month,	From . . £. 2. 5. . .	£. 50.
to . .	£. 2. 2. per D°.	To . . . £. 3. 3. . .	£. 50.

The increaſed Expenſe of drawing the Water, owing to the increaſed Depth of the Mines, is very great; different in different Mines: Not leſs than from 30 to 40 per Cent. ſuppoſing the Price of Materials to be the ſame.

C.

Appendix, No. 12.

REPORT from the Committee of Shipping of the EAST INDIA COMPANY reſpecting their COPPER TRADE; with the Secretary's Letter to the Chairman.

At a COMMITTEE of SHIPPING, the 5th April 1799.

THE Committee being met, in purſuance of the Reference of Court, t draw up a Repreſentation of the Grounds on which the Intereſt of th Company, and the Duty of the Court, may require, that they ſhould oppoſ the Bill now depending in the Houſe of Commons, to prohibit the Eaſt Indi

Company from exporting Copper from this Country, beg Leave to ſtate their Obſervations to this End as follows:

Firſt. That the Object which appears to be the main End of this Bill, namely, to leſſen for a Time the Exportation of Copper from this Country, will not, by any Means or in any Degree, be attained by paſſing the propoſed Reſtriction on the Eaſt India Company, becauſe the Ships of Foreign Nations, by clearing out from our Ports for any of the Countries in Amity with us in Europe, or for Maderia, may carry to India by a Route ſomewhat circuitous, the ſame Aſſortments and Quantities of Copper which the Company now export, and it may be certainly concluded that they will do ſo, becauſe Copper has long been a ſtaple Article in the Commerce from England to India, and a Void being created by the Ceſſation of the Company's Exports, it will be immediately filled from other Channels.

Second. A very large Part of the Copper exported by the Company, undergoes a Manufacture which is only performed in this Country. If the Export to India falls into the Hands of Foreigners they will, in all Probability, from œconomical Views, ſeek to eſtabliſh this Branch of Manufacture in their own Countries, and if they ſucceed in transferring it where Labour is cheaper, it may be difficult or impracticable for us to recover it.

Third. That the Liberty which will be left to Foreign Flags to export Copper, will more effectually operate to keep up the Price of Ores, and conſequently of Copper itſelf, than a Prohibition operating only towards the Cloſe of the Year (when the Company make their Contracts) if ſuch Prohibition could be effectual, would ſerve to reduce the Price; and it may be further obſerved, that though the Company have exported laſt Year 500 Tons leſs than they did the Year before, the Price, inſtead of decreaſing, has increaſed very conſiderably.

Fourth. That the Connection between the Eaſt India Company and their Territories in India, is ſo ſtrict, as to impoſe on them the Duty of attending, on all Occaſions, to the Welfare of thoſe Territories, and the vaſt Population they contain; and the material Article of Copper having not only been regularly ſupplied for their Conſumption by the Company for a long Series of Years, but ſyſtematically vended there at ſtated Periods of the Year by public Auction, on which therefore all Dealers place a ſteady Dependence, the Diverſion of the Buſineſs out of this eſtabliſhed Channel will be a very great Inconvenience to the Merchants and Manufacturers of India, and if the

new Channel ſhould occaſion any alteration in the manufactured Articles of Sheathing and Sheet Copper of Japan, and Shot Copper, the Inconvenience to the Indian Conſumption will be aggravated, or if thoſe Articles, by going circuitouſly, are only enhanced in Price, our own Aſiatic Subjects will be injured, and our Rivals in Trade benefited.

Fifth. That although it be true, the Wants of India may be in Part ſupplied from the Mine lately re-opened in Aſia Minor, yet that the Encouragement of Importation of Copper from thence would be extremely impolitic, becauſe the Copper ſo introduced muſt both tend to ſupplant the Copper of England, and to aboliſh the Importation of Specie, with which the Commodities of India, ſent up the Perſian Gulph, have hitherto been generally paid.

Sixth. That when the general Intereſt of this Country has evidently required a Sacrifice of the Company's Privileges, the Company have been at all Times ready to manifeſt their Zeal for the public Good; and upon the Renewal of their Charter in 1793, did agree to various Modifications of their Trade, which may now be conſidered as the National Channel of Intercourſe with India rather than a ſtrict Monopoly; but when the Company are made the only Objects of a public Reſtriction, and a Reſtriction which evidently will not effect its Object, they cannot but think ſuch Reſtriction unwiſe and impolitic.

(A true Copy.)

J. Hadderkt,
Aſſiſtant Secretary.

My Lord,

The Court of Directors of the Eaſt India Company, being of Opinion that the Company's Intereſts will be materially affected by the Bill which has lately been propoſed in Parliament, to prohibit the Company from exporting Copper for a Time to be limited, and being likewiſe of Opinion that the Object of the Bill, which appears to be intended to leſſen the Exportation of Copper from this Country, will not be attained by enacting the propoſed Reſtriction, the Court have referred the Subject to a Committee, with Directions to prepare ſuch Repreſentation as may appear to be neceſſary to offer on the Part of the Eaſt India Company, againſt the ſaid Bill paſſing

int

into a Law; and the Committee having prepared a Report accordingly; I am commanded to tranſmit your Lordſhip Copy of the ſame, and to expreſs the Court's Hopes that the Subject will now appear to you in ſuch a different Light, that you will judge it inexpedient the Bill ſhould proceed through any further Stage in the Houſe of Commons.

I have the Honour to be,
My Lord,
With the greateſt Reſpect,
Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient humble Servant,
W. Ramſay, Secretary.

East India Houſe,
the 6th April 1799.

To the Right Hon. Lord Hawkeſbury,
&c. &c. &c.

D.

APPENDIX, No. 32.

PRICES of Foreign and Engliſh Copper, from the Year 1789 to the Year 1799.

SWEDEN.—Copper is ſold in Sweden by the SCHIP POND, 7 ½ of which make One Ton Engliſh; and the Money of Account is the Rix Dollar.

PRICE AT STOCKHOLM, IN

1789.	1791.	1792.	1796.	
34 Rix Dollars.	43 Rix Dollars.	48 Rix Dollars.	58 Rix Dollars.	
Equal, with Charges on Board, to £. 64. 10. per Ton; and equal in London, in fine Copper, to £. 81. 3. 11. per Ton.	Which is a Riſe of more than 26 per Cent. upon the Prices in 1789.	A Riſe of more than 11 per Cent. on the Price in 1791, and of 41 per Cent. in the Price in 1789.	A Riſe of nearly 21 per Cent. on the Price in 1792, and of nearly 71 per Cent. on the Price in 1789.	The Price of 58 Rix Dollars in the Year 1796, made the Coſt of a Ton of Copper on Board at Stockholm, equal to £. 110 per Ton Sterling.

I have no Account from my Correſpondent in Sweden ſince June 1796; but I underſtand from the beſt Authority I have been able to obtain here, that the Price has advanced conſiderably beyond 58 Rix Dollars ſince that Period.

CADIZ.—Copper is ſold by the QUINTAL; and the Money of Account is the Dollar.

PRICE AT CADIZ, IN

1789.	1791.		1796.
17 Dollars.	22 Dollars.	—	
Equal on Board there to £. 67 Sterling per Ton, and in London, in fine Copper, to £. 84. 2. 7. per Ton.	A Riſe of more than 29 per Cent.		There was no Copper at Cadiz; but Letters from thence ſtated, that a Quantity was expected, and that it was ſuppoſed it would ſell for at leaſt 22 Dollars.

(*Continued.*)

(Continued.)

SMYRNA.—Copper is ſold in Smyrna by the OKE, 45 of which are equal to 124 Libs. Engliſh; and the Money of Account is the Para.

PRICE AT SMYRNA, IN

1789.		1792.	1796.	1799.
30 Paras.		from 37 to 40 Paras.	51½ Paras.	from 68 to 76 Paras.
Equal, with Charges on Board there, to £. 63. per Ton, and in London, in fine Copper, to £. 78. 13. per Ton.		Take as a Medium 38½, which is a Riſe of 28½ per Cent. on the Price in 1789. £. 77. per Ton at Smyrna.	Which is a Riſe of nearly 34 per Cent. on the Price in 1792, and of nearly 72 per Cent. on the Price of 1789. £. 100 per Ton at Smyrna.	Take it at 70 Paras, which is a Riſe of nearly 36 per Cent. on the Price of 1796, and 133 per Cent. on the Price in 1789, equal to £. 131 per Ton on Board at Smyrna.

N. B. The *Prices in London* cannot be accurately given becauſe the Freight and Inſurance fluctuated very much during theſe Periods.

ENGLAND, IN

1789.	1791.	1792.	1796.	1799.
Price £. 80. per Ton.	£. 90. per Ton.	£. 100. per Ton.	£. 118. per Ton.	£. 128. per Ton.
In London.	A Riſe of 12½ per Cent. on the Price in 1789.	A Riſe of about 11 per Cent. on the Price of 1791, and a Riſe of 25 per Cent. upon that of 1789.	A Riſe of 18 per Cent. upon the Price in 1792, and of 47 upon the Price in 1789.	A Riſe 8½ per Cent. on the Price in 1796, and of 60 per Cent. on that of 1789.

London, 16th April, 1798,

Paſcoe Grenfell.

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